

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. – 12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system that processes items in computers in accordance with a previously defined business process, said server computer being connected to a plurality of other computers and a database for storing items, said server computer comprising:

an item extraction condition table including an item acquisition range condition and an item selection key corresponding to said business process; ~~and~~  
a storage for storing a plurality of items received from said other computers; and

an item allocation processing section for receiving an item acquisition request containing a business process identifier from a computer included in said other computers, ~~extracting items satisfying a previously determined condition from said item extraction condition table,~~ based on an item acquisition range condition included in said received item acquisition request, a plurality of items satisfying said item acquisition range condition, selecting one item from among said extracted items by using an item selection key and information corresponding to an item selection

key included in said received item acquisition request, and transmitting ~~said selected one~~ item to said computer included in said other computers that transmitted said item acquisition request.

14. (currently amended) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system that processes items in accordance with an order of a previously defined business process, said server computer being connected to a plurality of client computers and a database for storing items, and said server computer comprising:

a storage for storing a plurality of items received from other computers;

an item allocation processing section for extracting a plurality of items from said database so as to at least allocate identical items to two or more client computers included in said client computers based on item acquisition requests received from said client computers, and extracting one item for each of said client computers from among said extracted items by using an item selection key included in said item acquisition request; and

a transmission section for transmitting said extracted item to each of said client computers that requested item acquisition.

15. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 13, wherein said item selection key is an identifier added to said item acquisition request, time when said request has been received, or an

identifier depending upon a worker who has transmitted said item acquisition request.

16. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 14, wherein said item selection key is an identifier added to said item acquisition request, time when said request has been received, or an identifier depending upon a worker who has transmitted said item acquisition request.

17. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 13, wherein said item selection key is a value depending upon a client program that operates in each of said other computers.

18. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 14, wherein said item selection key is a value depending upon a client program that operates in each of said client computers.

19. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 17, wherein said value depending upon a client program that operates in each of said other computers is a thread ID of the client program, a process ID of the client program, an object reference acquired from the client

program, or an identifier of a connection formed from the client program to the server at time of said item request.

20. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 18, wherein said value depending upon a client program that operates in each of said client computers is a thread ID of the client program, a process ID of the client program, an object reference acquired from the client program, or an identifier of a connection formed from the client program to the server at time of said item request.

21. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 13, wherein said item selection key is either an IP address or a MAC address of each of said other computers.

22. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 14, wherein said item selection key is either an IP address or a MAC address of each of said client computers.

23. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 13, wherein said item allocation processing section operates for each of works of a business process stored in the server.

24. (original) A server computer that conducts item allocation in a workflow system according to claim 14, wherein said item allocation processing section operates for each of works of a business process stored in the server.

25. (currently amended) A workflow system ~~including a server computer and~~ comprising:

a plurality of client computers, ~~said a~~ server computer being connected to said plurality of client computers and a database for storing items,

wherein said server computer ~~extracting~~ extracts a workflow control program, said workflow control program when executed causing server to ~~perform:~~ said server to perform the steps of:

receiving item acquisition conditions and item acquisition requests from said client computers;

extracting items from among items stored in said database, based on ~~said received item acquisition conditions~~ an item acquisition range condition included in said received item acquisition requests to select an item from among said extracted items by using an item selection key included in said item acquisition request; and

transmitting said extracted items ~~one item~~ to said computer included in said client computers,

wherein each of said client computers ~~executing~~ executes a workflow client program for causing said client computer to ~~perform selecting~~ select items to

be processed in the client computer from among items received from said server computer by using an item selection key.